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JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

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Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-370750)

DATE: September 14, 1960

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-21198)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISESUBJECT: JOHN HOWARD LAWSON
IS-C
OO:LAALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-25-86 BY 9145 JFb/gfpDECLASSIFIED BY 5668-SLW/mck
ON 7-7-95 (JFK)

Re Bureau letter to Office of Security, Department of State, dated 8/11/60, regarding the possibility of travel by LAWSON outside the United States.

On 9/6/60, LA 3402-S reported that during a personal contact with LAWSON the day before, he indicated that nothing definite had been decided about his possible trip to Cuba as guest of the Cuban Film Institute. LAWSON said that in any event he would not be able to leave before the middle of October; that he is scheduled to leave Los Angeles in about two weeks on a lecture tour which will take him to San Francisco, Portland and Seattle. His wife SUE will go with him. LAWSON indicated to informant that he would much rather go to Europe than to Cuba; and that if he did, he would see enough to form the basis for a series of lectures that would last all Winter when he got back; however, he did not indicate any definite plans whatever regarding a European trip (u)

Subsequently LA 3402-S was in contact with LAWSON again; and on this occasion, informant learned that LAWSON will leave on 10/7/60 on a speaking trip to San Francisco, Portland and Seattle. At Portland, he will lecture on playwriting at Reed College. He will return to Los Angeles about 10/15/60. (u)

Classified by *SP-6 JF/gfp* REF 34
Declassify on: OADR

- P
③ - Bureau
1 - Washington Field Office
1 - San Francisco
1 - Portland
1 - Seattle
3 - Los Angeles (1 - 100-21198)
(1 - 100-29552) (S. LAWSON)
(1 - 100-8864) (COLE)

EX 109

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LA 100-21198

It is noted that Seattle advised by airtel dated 8/16/60 that at Seattle, LAWSON will probably be sponsored by the Washington Cultural CO-OP Association.

During his ^{last} ~~next~~ contact with LAWSON, LA 3402-S received a definite impression that LAWSON has cooled considerably toward the trip to Cuba. LAWSON indicated that the Cuban spokesmen do not really have much to offer there, and he again stated he would much rather go to Europe instead. (X)(u)

In regard to the possibility of a European trip by LAWSON, informants have developed nothing concrete as yet. In this connection, however, the following information received from LA 3932-S on 7/1/60, may be the basis for LAWSON's consideration of a European trip at an unspecified time in the future. (X)(u)

LAWSON was present at a meeting of the ^{Section} ~~Security~~ Council of the Professional-Cultural Section, Communist Party (CP), Los Angeles on 6/21/60. Part of the business of that meeting was a discussion concerning the possibility that section council members JOHN H. LAWSON and LESTER COLE (Bureau file 100-2230) were giving considerable thought to spending sometime in eastern Europe. Apparently this stemmed from the fact that Mrs. JEAN PESTANA, Attorney and member of the Section Council, (Bureau file 100-389985) was then visiting in eastern Europe and had written back that the Communists in Czechoslovakia were interested in having intellectual Communists from other countries visit Czechoslovakia; that there appears to be a considerable difference between the attitude of the Russian Communists and that of the Czechoslovakian Communists toward outside intellectuals; that where as the Russians feel Communists should work in their own countries, the Czechoslovakians feel there is great need for intellectuals and specialists in Czechoslovakia at the present time and therefore welcome such people, in Prague. (X)(u)

Both LAWSON and COLE indicated that they have good connections in Czechoslovakia. Both indicated their desires to spend sometime, possibly a year, there if it (X)(u)

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